



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 24-HOUR REPORT

29 DECEMBER 2020

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### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Calaveras County – Arson Suspect Arrested on Felony Charges

(U) A suspect believed to be responsible for several suspicious fires in Calaveras County has been arrested. The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office identified 33-year-old Carl Morrison of Mountain Ranch as the suspect after releasing a photograph of a person of interest last week. Between 26 and 27 November 2020, three fires of questionable origin were reported. A cabin was destroyed in the fires and several acres of Forest Service land was also damaged. Officials arrested Morrison after discovering new information and evidence. He is facing charges of arson of an inhabited structure, arson of forest land, burglary, and vehicle theft. Morrison is being held at the Calaveras County Jail with a bail of \$250,000. SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [CBS Sacramento](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia – US Treasury Warns Banks of COVID-19 Vaccine Fraud

(U) Washington DC – The US Treasury Department alerted financial institutions to fraud related to COVID-19 vaccines, warning of ransomware attacks that target vaccine delivery operations and supply chains. The Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) cautioned of an array of vaccine-related crimes, including the sale of unapproved, counterfeit, or illegally marketed vaccines. In addition, fraudsters have offered to provide individuals with a vaccine sooner than provided under authorized distribution plans. Financial institutions and their customers are warned to be on the lookout for phishing schemes seeking to snare victims with misinformation about vaccines. Financial institutions are required to report all transactions that might be dubious.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [Wall Street Journal](#)

#### (U) Massachusetts – Possible Hate Crime as Arson Suspected of Church Fire

(U) Springfield – A fire at a church with a predominately black congregation is being investigated as a potential hate crime. First responders were called to Martin Luther King Jr. Community Presbyterian Church early yesterday morning after the church was seen burning. Fire Commissioner Bernard Calvi stated it was highly suspicious and that it took crews about an hour to extinguish the blaze, which left the venue unusable. Calvi also stated, that fire officials are still working to determine what the motive could have been for the suspected arson, and potential hate crime.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [The Hill](#)

#### (U) Tennessee – Explosion Suspect Was Not on TBI Radar

(U) Nashville – The suspect in Christmas morning's RV explosion was identified after investigators matched tissue found at the blast to DNA from gloves and a hat inside a car the suspect owned. Suspected bomber Anthony Quinn Warner, 63, of Antioch, Tennessee, died in the blast. In a statement yesterday, the director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) said that Warner was not on their radar. The TBI said Warner's only arrest in Tennessee was in 1978 for marijuana possession.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [ABC News](#)

# UNCLASSIFIED

## **(U) INTERNATIONAL**

### **(U) Finland – Parliament Says Some Lawmakers' Emails Hacked**

(U) Helsinki – Email accounts belonging to some Finnish lawmakers were compromised during a cyberattack. No detail was given of what information was lost, if any, or when the attack was, other than it was in the autumn. While Finland has seen a number of wide denial-of-service attacks on state IT infrastructure over the past few years, this case is serious due to it targeting the country's law makers. Parliament said it was co-operating in the investigation into the attack.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

### **(U) France – Three French Soldiers Killed in Mali**

(U) Paris – Three French soldiers died while in operation in Mali, when an improvised explosive device hit their armored vehicle. The soldiers, on a mission in the southern region of Hombori, were part of France's Barkhane military operations in Mali against extremist fighters.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

### **(U) North Macedonia – Eight Charged with Creating Terrorist Organization**

(U) Skopje – Police in North Macedonia said that eight men have been arrested on suspicion of planning terrorist attacks in the country and officers have seized a large quantity of weapons. Police said the men arrested, are between 21 and 31-years-old. One of the suspects had a previous conviction of participation in the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). The eight have been charged with creating a terrorist organization. If convicted of that charge, they face prison sentences of up to 10-years.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [Associated Press](#)

### **(U) Turkey – Seven ISIS Suspects Arrested**

(U) Kayseri – Seven people with suspected links to ISIS were arrested yesterday. Local forces in the Kayseri province raided five addresses in the Kocasinan district to arrest the suspects, all from Syria. The suspects, who entered Turkey illegally, were last active in Syria between 2011-2015. Since 2013, Turkey has since been attacked by ISIS multiple times, with 315 people killed and hundreds more injured in at least 10 suicide bombings, seven bomb attacks, and four armed assaults.

SOURCE: 28 December 2020, [Turkish Press](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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